(b) NGOs themselves formed State level fora in some States and a Confederation of NGOs of Rural India at national level. Though these fora and Confederation have not been formed for the proposed training programme, their services would be utilized by CAPART wherever feasible and required.

(c) The training programme will be conducted by CAPART through NGOs in different parts of the country in stages.

(d) While the details of the Scheme are being worked out, to begin with, training will cover one lakh rural youth in different skills through 50 NGOs in 50 districts.

Unproductive land in country

1668. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 25 million hectares of land is lying unproductive in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have revived the various schemes and programmes for the improving wasteland through making it productive to use in the next five years by involving community and private participation in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) As per the Wastelands Atlas of India, 2000, brought out by the Department of Land Resources in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad employing Satellite Remote Sensing Technologies, the total extent of Wasteland/degraded lands in the country is 63.85 million hectares of which 36.98 million hectares are treatable wastelands excluding forest wastelands. To revive and develop these areas, the Department of Land Resources has been implementing three area development programmes namely, the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP). These programmes are being implemented on watershed basis since 1995-96. Under these programmes, the watershed works are to be planned, executed and maintained by the local people themselves with necessary technical, financial and managerial inputs and

support from the concerned line departments/Zilla Parishad/District Rural Development Agencies.

(d) Question does not arise.

Food for Work programme in Andhra Pradesh

1669. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of foodgrains released to Andhra Pradesh under Food for Work programme for the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, district wise;

(b) the details of guidelines proposed by Union Government to Andhra Pradesh for proper utilization of foodgrains under the programme; and

(c) whether Government propose any new mandatory guidelines for efficient functioning of this scheme and whether Government would enact a law making at least 100 days compulsory employment to every villager in India through Food for Work programme?

THE MINISTER FOR STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Food for Work programme was discontinued from 2001-02 and a new programme called Special Component under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) was launched w.e.f. 25th September, 2001. In addition, National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) has also been launched in November, 2004. Eight districts of Andhra Pradesh have been included in the 150 districts covered under the programme. A Statement indicating district-wise foodgrains authorized to Andhra Pradesh under Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 and under NFFWP during 2004-05 is enclosed as a Statement (*See* below).

(b) The Special Component of SGRY and NFFWP are implemented as per guidelines of SGRY and NFFWP. State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh is also directed by the Ministry from time to time to utilize the foodgrains under the progammes as per their respective guidelines.

(c) The Government has introduced the National Rural Employment Bill, 2004 in the Lok Sabha on 21.12.2004 which envisages provision of at least 100 days guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to poor households in the rural areas whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.